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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed outermost

backside and bodyside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and

defines the outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be

directly placed adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal

surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed

proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over

the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending

beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of

the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing;

a first skin adherent facing layer directly secured only to the proximal surface

of the border portion of the backing layer and surrounding the peripheral edges of the

absorbent core, a proximal surface of the first facing layer defining a portion of the

bodyside surface of the wound dressing; and

a second-perforated, facing layer directly-secured bonded to and coextensive

with the proximal surface of the absorbent core, a proximal surface of the second

facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing and

being generally co-planar with the proximal surface of the first facing layer, a

periphery of the second facing layer being contiguous with a periphery of the first

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facing layer, the second facing layer defining a grid pattern of through extending

apertures arranged across the second facing layer and non-apertured regions

surrounding the apertures;

wherein the bodyside surface of the wound dressing consists the proximal

surfaces of the first and second facing layers;

wherein the second facing layer is composed of a skin adherent hydrophobic

silicone gel compound, the thickness of the non-apertured regions consisting the

silicone gel compound.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the

border portion of the backing layer is substantially parallel with the distal surface of

the absorbent core.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the

border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections,

each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent

core.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12,

wherein the first facing layer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 17. (Cancelled)

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Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12,

wherein the first facing layer is sufficiently porous so as not to occlude moisture

transmission through the backing layer.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 12,

wherein the first facing layer-of the backing layer has greater skin adherence

properties than the second facing layer.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 12,

wherein the peripheral edges of the absorbent core have a bevel extending

downwardly and inwardly towards a central axis thereof from the distal surface to the

proximal surface thereof.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

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Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside

and backside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the

outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed

adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed

proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over

the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending

beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of

the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a continuous skin adherent facing layer composed of a skin adherent

hydrophobic silicone gel compound and directly-secured bonded to both the proximal

surfaces of the absorbent core and the border portion of the backing layer, the facing

layer defining a grid pattern of through extending apertures only along the portion

thereof bounded by the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, and a plurality of non-

apertured regions surrounding the apertures arranged across the facing layer, the

facing layer defining the entirety of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing;

wherein the apertures of the facing layer are formed irrespective of the

proximal surface of the absorbent core;

wherein the thickness of the non-apertured regions consists the silicone gel

compound.

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Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside

and backside surfaces, the bodyside surface being generally planar and defines the

outermost surface on a proximal side of the dressing intended to be directly placed

adjacent a wound surface, the dressing comprising:

a polymeric foam based absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal

surfaces;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed

proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over

the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending

beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of

the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a continuous skin adherent facing layer directly-secured bonded to both the

proximal surfaces of the absorbent core and the proximal surface of the border portion

of the backing layer, the facing layer defining a grid pattern of through extending

apertures along an apertured portion thereof located adjacent to the distal surface of

the absorbent core and the grid pattern being bounded by the peripheral edges of the

absorbent core, the portion of the facing layer corresponding to the border portion of

the backing layer having a generally smooth surface, the facing layer defining the

entirety of the bodyside of the wound dressing;

wherein the facing layer is a hydrophobic silicone gel compound, a plurality of

non-apertured regions of the facing layer surrounding the apertures and consisting the

silicone gel compound having an uninterrupted thickness;

wherein the apertures of the facing layer are formed irrespective of the

proximal surface of the absorbent core.

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